

## Message Text

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43

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5722

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

UNCLAS WARSAW 4023

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL(SMITH, DENNIS)

SUBJECT: STAG DENNIS SMITH

REF: WARSAW 3719

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS INTENDED AS A UPDATE OF THE REF-TEL WHICH REPORTED ON THE EARLIER PART OF THE SMITH VISIT.

2. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12, SMITH FLEW TO KRAKOW FOR A ONE DAY PROGRAM IN POLANDS FORMER CAPITAL. SMITH, VERY TIRED, ASKED TO HAVE HIS SCHEDULED 10 AM VISIT WITH THE KRAKOW FIRE DEPARTMENT CANCELLED. THE BPAO MET WITH THE COMMANDANT AND EXPRESSED OUR REGRETS.

3. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE KRAKOW CHAPTER OF THE POLISH WRITERS UNION, THE CONSULATE ARRANGED AN AFTERNOON LECTURE/DISCUSSION FOR SMITH. SUCH TOP WRITERS AS JAN JOZEF SZCZEPANSKI LESZEK ELEKTORWOCZ, WLODZIMIERZ WNUK, MAREK SKWARNICKI AND TERESA TRUSZKOWSKA ATTENDED. THE MEDIA WAS REPRESENTED BY "PRZEKROJ"

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MIECZYSLAW CZUMA, "TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY" EDITOR JERZY TUROWICZ, AS WELL AS A KRAKOW TELEVISION REPORTER, A COLUMNIST FROM "ZYCIE LITERACKIE", AND A MEMBER OF THE JAGIELLINIAN UNIVERSITY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (ONE ONLY DUE TO JUNE 12  
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FALLING AT THE HEIGHT OF THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION PERIOD).

THE MEETING EVOLVED INTO AN INFORMAL LECTURE, LASTING ONLY 15 MINUTES, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION PERIOD LASTING ONE AND HALF HOURS. FACING A WELL-INFORMED GROUP OF QUESTIONERS, SMITH ANSWERED DETAILED AND POINTED QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC OF THE BLUE COLLAR WRITER, ON STEINBECK AND THE CURRENT TRENDS IN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FICTION, AND ON HIS OWN ROLE AS A WRITER AND A WORKER. THE CONSULATE REPORTS THAT LATER UNSOLICITED COMMENTS FROM THE POLES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS DISCUSSION INDICATED THEIR HIGHLY FAVORABLE REACTION TO SMITH.

4. THURSDAY EVENING, SMITH HAD DINNER WITH TUROWICZ AND ELEKTOROWICZ, AND THE AFTERNOON'S DISCUSSION WAS CONTINUED. BOTH POLES INTEND TO VISIT SMITH ON FORTHCOMING VISITS TO THE U.S.

5. IN SUMMARY, "ZYCIE LITERACKIE" HAS ASKED TO REPRINT SMITH'S NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE. "PRZEKROJ" ASKED, BUT WAS REFUSED DUE TO RIGHTS QUESTION, TO REPRINT THE OPENING OF "REPORT FROM ENGINE CO 82," BUT WAS GIVEN TENTATIVE PERMISSION BY SMITH TO REPRINT SOMETHING FROM HIS SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED SECOND BOOK, "THE FINAL FIRE". SMITH SAID THAT HIS FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE IN NEW YORK WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE POLISH WRITERS HE MET IN WARSAW AND KRAKOW.

6. KRAKOW AND WARSAW AGREED THAT SMITH'S PROGRAM WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT FUTURE PROGRAMMING OF SMITH AND WRITERS WITH SIMILAR STYLES AND INTERESTS OUGHT TO BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.  
DAVIES

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